



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

July 12, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David Potter  
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Updated OBSCON Procedures – July 2006

This memo is to inform you of the recent OBSCON changes that have occurred. Although these changes were needed to accommodate new coverage of the industry funded scallop trips the changes will apply to all covered trips. The field names that have been added are Contract Area and Vendor I.D. Code.

Please start calling in these new fields to OBSCON immediately. They are listed in red in the instructions that are included in this packet.

Contract Area has been modified to categorize what type of trip you are observing. See below for the updated definition of Contract Area. Please discard any old definitions of this field and start using this new definition immediately.

**CONTRACT AREA:** For trips targeting Atlantic Sea Scallop, record if the trip is Limited Access (code 046) or General Category (code 047). This information must be obtained from the captain and should be asked at the beginning of the trip. All other trips should use the “Standard Trip” code listed below.

046 = Limited Access Scallop  
047 = General Category Scallop  
000 = Standard Trip  
999 = Unknown

Vendor I.D. code has also been added as a new call-in field to OBSCON. This information should be called in for every trip you observe. See below for the definition:

**VENDOR ID CODE:** Record the appropriate two digit Vendor Identification Code. This information can be obtained from the Observer Service Provider.

01 = AIS Fisheries Sampling Branch Trip  
02 = AIS Industry Funded Trip



Additionally, please review the attached OBSCON Worksheet and Instructions for the most up to date definitions of OBSCON fields. Eventually, OBSCON data will be transmitted electronically through the use of a hand-held iPAQ. These fields have been reordered to match with the upcoming electronic reporting. Please start filling out and sending in an OBSCON worksheet for each trip you observe. This will eventually be phased out after we verify the correct information is being reported. The information should also be reported in the same order as the worksheet.

If you have any questions, please contact KB McArdle at [Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov](mailto:Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov) or 508-495-2377.

Thank you.

